

	1831.	1832.
Inflammation of the lungs	192	225
Do. of the breast	28	19
Pleurisy	24	19
Bronchitis	63	97
	<hr/> 307	<hr/> 360

From the very prevalent opinion, that during the existence of an epidemic all other diseases assume its type and fall into its train, it might be suspected that the excess of mortality from other diseases than malignant cholera, had chiefly occurred during the months previous to, and following its visitation. But an examination of the monthly mortality proves the reverse; namely, that during the months of July and August, in which malignant cholera prevailed, the mortality from other diseases was greatly increased beyond what it had been in the same months of the preceding year. Neither can this excess be mainly ascribed to other forms of bowel complaints, since much of it was owing to deaths from consumption, fevers, and inflammations.

The first case of malignant cholera was reported to the Board of Health on the 11th of July, the individual having been taken on the 5th, and died on the 8th. From this time to the 27th of the same month, only 6 or 7 cases were reported, on different days, but from the 27th the daily reports were uninterrupted till about the 8th of September. Of the whole mortality from malignant cholera, namely, 948, 852 took place between the 27th of July and 25th of August. The reports for each week the epidemic prevailed, were as follows, viz.—

		Adults.	Children.	Total.
2d week in July, ending the	14th, malignant cholera	1	0	11
3d	21st	3	0	3
4th	28th	8	0	8
1st week in August, ending the	4th	81	3	84
2d	11th	335	35	370
3d	18th	238	44	282
4th	25th	67	49	116
5th	September 1st	41	4	45
1st week in September, ending the	8th	13	5	18
2d	15th	8	0	8
3d	22d	6	0	6
4th	29th	4	0	4
1st week in October, ending the	6th	2	1	3
Totals		<hr/> 807	<hr/> 141	<hr/> 948

The number of births reported falls short of that for 1831 by 89. The excess of male births is greater than usual, and amounts to no less than 415. We think that the visitation of the late epidemic has led to some omissions in the returns appertaining to this department, since it is not likely that it could have interfered with the conceptions which must have taken place so long before its approach was apprehended. Never since the births have been registered in Philadelphia has their amount been so nearly encroached upon by that of the deaths, as to leave the balance only 554 in their favour. Last year, (1831,) the difference between the births and interments, was 2,403.

Notice of a Malignant Disease generated on Ship-board by Filth, Imperfect Ventilation, &c. By Jons H. Guiscom, M. D. [Communicated in a letter to J. K. Mitchell, M. D.]—In accordance with my promise made to you when we last met, I have taken some pains to inquire into the circumstances attending the awful mortality which prevailed on board the ship *Sybilla*, Captain Thornhill, during her passage from Holland to this port. The unparalleled destruc-

tion of human life in that vessel, was not, I am satisfied, caused by the scourge which has within the last few years devastated so many countries, but was a disease generated among these unfortunate wretches by their horribly filthy condition, and their total want of attention to their persons. From all that I can learn from the captain and consignees, there did not appear to be any positive symptoms of cholera, except intense *thirst*, and to allay this, they were continually calling for gin. Neither *cramps*, *vomiting*, nor *diarrhaa* attended these cases, nor indeed did there seem, from the accounts of these gentlemen, to be any febrile excitement, but in some cases, the captain states, they would be seen to shake, as with a rigor of intermittent, which would soon pass off, and leave them as before. The disgusting condition in which they kept themselves, swarming with vermin *cap à pie*; lying all day in their berths without attempting to go on deck during the whole voyage; three or four huddling themselves together in a place destined to accommodate only one or two; totally inattentive to their own situation, and to the victims who were daily falling around them, whether kindred or not; this condition of things, I say, existed nearly two months prior to their being received on board the vessel. The passengers were from Wirtemberg, and for sixty days had been living in the canal boats which brought them down, not being allowed to leave the canal side, and were consequently obliged to drink the canal water, in which copper-bottomed vessels were floating, which is supposed to have been one powerful cause of the miserable diathesis to which they were reduced.

Considerable mortality had happened among them before embarkation, and the first death on board, occurred the day after their departure from the Helvoetsluys. Their food during the voyage consisted of peas, beans, potatoes and other fresh vegetables, fresh and salt meats, &c. all good and in abundance; they however ate but little, but all their desire was for gin and sugar, in which they would soak their bread, giving it even to their children of two years old. So perfectly listless and inattentive were they to their own situation, and so much a matter of indifference was it to them to be living or dying, that it was found necessary to make it the duty of the crew to go down every morning into the steerage, and after first searching out the corpses, and consigning them to their watery grave, to turn their attention to cleansing the living; to do which they were obliged to lift even the females from their beds of filth, and endeavour to relieve their bodies from some of the dirt with which they were covered, though without the least assistance from the poor wretches themselves. The whole number of them was one hundred and thirty-two, (seventy-four of them children,) of whom ninety-four perished during the voyage.

If there was any disease with which they were affected, and to which a name could be given, typhus would probably be the most appropriate. The officers and crew, who were fortunately not only willing, but indefatigable in their endeavours to keep these people in the best condition possible, spending two or three hours every morning among them, and this too during a protracted and stormy passage of ninety days, were in excellent health during the whole time.

On the Peruvian Bark as a Counter-agent to the Poisonous Effects of Arsenic.
By ELIAS J. MARSH, M. D. [In a note to the Editor.]—Sir, The November No. of your Journal contains a communication from Dr. Perrine, detailing the effects produced on himself by swallowing accidentally a large dose of arsenic.

How far the action of the poison may have been checked by the Peruvian bark, with which it was taken, is worthy of inquiry; and the object of this note is to communicate a statement just recalled to my memory, made several years ago by Professor J. A. Smith, of New York, to his class. Professor S. stated that a medical friend had related to him several cases of poisoning by arsenic, which he had successfully treated by administering large doses of Peruvian bark and milk.

Paterson, N. J. January, 1832.